



THE DAILY TEXAN

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Clashes dominate conservative author's visit

By Hudson Lockett & Molly Triece
Daily Texan Staff

Conservative author David Horowitz may have been disappointed if he expected a quiet welcome during his visit to UT on Thursday.

About 25 protesters gathered under the shadow of the Jackson Geological Sciences Building to speak out against the College Republicans event featuring Horowitz, who was on campus to discuss his latest book, "One-Party Classroom." Protest organizers included Campus Progress, the International Socialist Organization and Iranians for Peace and Justice.

Horowitz's book charges certain professors, including some who teach at UT, with bringing their political leanings into the classroom and disseminating them to students.

In his writings, Horowitz advocates "academic freedom" legislation that would monitor professors' teaching methods and issue consequences for political polarization.

Dana Cloud, an associate communication studies professor, and Robert Jensen, an associate journalism professor, are among those accused of discriminating against students with po-

litical beliefs different from their own. Jensen has debated with Horowitz before on the topic of politics in the classroom.

"They're allegations without substantiation," Jensen said. "I do believe we should ask the critical question: Are faculties inappropriately politicizing the classroom? If you've chosen certain textbooks over others, can you defend why?"

Horowitz walked with police security into Boyd Auditorium as the crowd, distinctly divided between supporters and protesters, responded wildly to each other throughout his hour-and-a-half speech. Supporters outnumbered protesters by at least 4-to-1.

Protesters booed law professor Lino Graglia as he introduced Horowitz, prompting cries of "shut up" from the rest of the audience. A UT representative then issued the first of three warnings, calling for the audience to stop shouting. A final warning alerted the audience that disruptive students would be subject to discipline and possibly criminal charges.

"Here comes Dana's circus,"

AUTHOR continues on page 2A



Photos by Emily Kinsolving | Daily Texan Staff

Above, Conservative author and activist David Horowitz exits the stage after delivering a speech on liberal bias in university curricula Thursday night. **Left,** Protesters express their discontent with Horowitz's claims as others listen over their complaints. Supporters of the speaker outnumbered the vocal opposition by at least 4-to-1.

NAACP set to protest at doors of Highland in response to closure

Civil rights group says
mall's early shutdown
motivated by racism

By Matt Stephens
Daily Texan Staff

The NAACP will protest at Highland Mall in response to the mall's early closure last Saturday during the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays.

Nelson Linder, president of the Austin branch of the NAACP, said several members of the organization plan to protest with signs outside the mall's doors this Saturday at 9 a.m.

"We need to let folks know that this is not where they need to be shopping," Linder said.

He said he feels the closure was racially motivated because of the high influx of African-Americans that participate in or watch the Relays.

"The mall is open all the time,"

Linder said. "Why close it when a black event comes to Austin? It's the biggest event of black folks coming to Austin. Why can't Austin deal with it?"

Texas Relays bring in nearly \$8 million from the event's 40,000 attendees, according to the Austin Sports Commission.

Highland Mall manager Jeff Gionnette said the mall closed at 2 p.m. Saturday because he felt it did not have enough security for the expected number of customers brought in by Texas Relays. The mall, which normally closes at 9 p.m., reopened Sunday morning at regular business hours.

He estimated that the mall has had as many as 25,000 customers in previous years on the Saturday of the event.

"In no way does Highland Mall discriminate against

NAACP continues on page 2A

House bill would add faculty member to Board of Regents

By Mohini Madgavkar
Daily Texan Staff

After years of campaigning, faculty may be working directly with the UT System Board of Regents on issues including tuition rates, hiring and curriculum reform following the current legislative session.

State Rep. Paula Pierson, D-Arlington, introduced a bill at the House Higher Education Subcommittee meeting Wednesday

that would appoint a UT System faculty member to the board.

The legislation proposes that a faculty member take the place of one of three current regents whose terms expire in 2011. Maureen Perro, Pierson's chief of staff, said the legislation will change at the regents' behest to strip the proposed position of voting rights before coming out of committee.

Perro said that while faculty would not have a formal vote in System issues, the legislation would give faculty members a more direct voice in UT System decisions and improve the current state of affairs.

"The faculty members feel that by being acknowledged, they can make more of a consistent and unified impact in

"[The board] needs a pathway to get faculty input, just as they do from the student regent member."

— David Hillis,
UT Faculty Council
chairman

BOARD continues on page 2A

UT students lend tax help to low-income residents

Center's goals include helping families
understand code, maximize returns

By Pierre Bertrand
Daily Texan Staff

The last day to file tax returns — April 15 — is rapidly approaching as hundreds of University students volunteer to help low-income families with the task.

Students from the McCombs School of Business are working as part of an accounting class to help residents understand tax codes or maximize their returns for the following year.

TAX continues on page 2A



Monica Corpus and Fernando Ramirez wait for help filing their taxes. UT business students helped low-income families with their returns as part of an accounting class.

Paul Chouy
Daily Texan Staff

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High 79 Low 57

Today's weather

Is a dead man's sperm good for 24 or 48 hours?

AUTHOR: Horowitz calls protesters 'little fascists'

From page 1A

Horowitz said as protesters increased their volume.

He was then booed off the stage, only to return after a few minutes.

Horowitz, using reading lists as examples, accused specific University departments of propagating a liberal agenda and said professors have a tendency to drown out dissent in their classroom.

"The communications school and women's studies are political parties," he said. "They're not academic departments in any sense of the word."

College Republicans spokesman Colin Harris said the protesters were picketing against an issue about which they were ill-informed, merely because it exhibited conservative viewpoints that contradicted their own.

"Just the most far-left organizations on campus are protesting," Harris said. "They think he's some crusader who's trying to silence free speech. He just wants [professors] to keep their politics out of the classroom."

Cloud used her time at the microphone during the question-and-answer session to criticize Horowitz for his allegation that professors indoctrinate students.

"I think that belittles and demeans our students," Cloud said.

Horowitz argued that Cloud and the protesters, whom he referred to as "little fascists," were



Emily Kinsolving | Daily Texan Staff

During a question-and-answer session after author David Horowitz's lecture, government freshman Justin May holds the microphone for associate communication professor Dana Cloud, whom Horowitz listed as one of the "101 most dangerous academics in America."

violating his right to free speech by way of their interruptions.

Student organizations participating in the protest accused Horowitz of manipulating facts

and quotes to rid campuses of leftist ideology.

The legislation proposed by Horowitz, an optional and controversial "Academic Bill of

Rights," would impact uninvolved professors, said Bryan McCann, a communication studies graduate student and member of the International Socialist

Organization.

"These laws will basically have professors walking on eggshells instead of challenging their students," McCann said.

NAACP: Mall rep claims closing was due to security concerns

From page 1A

anybody," Gionnette said. "Race was not a factor in the decision to close the mall. The decision was based on resources."

Gionnette would not comment on whether any crimes have been committed during past Texas Relays weekends at Highland Mall.

Linder said that in 2008, Gionnette invited him to the mall on the weekend of the Relays. Linder said the security there prevented any problems and that in the six hours he walked the mall, he saw no trouble. He received no invitation from Gionnette before this year's Relays, he said.

Linder said he visited the mall Saturday and saw security outside the doors preventing people from entering.

"If he had plenty of security to keep people out, then they could have done what they did last year and kept people in," Linder said.

According to statistics provided by the Austin Police De-

partment, 25 arrests were made downtown Friday and Saturday. Those numbers are down from the 46 arrests last year and 39 arrests in 2007. During Mardi Gras, 57 arrests were made, and 52 arrests were made the weekend of South by Southwest.

Cpl. Scott Perry, a spokesman for the department, said police handle Texas Relays weekend the same way they handle other large events.

"There's a lot of people there, and just like any other event, people have a good time," Perry said. "Sometimes, they have too good of a time, and they get arrested."

Perry said the department was not responsible for Highland Mall's security.

"The police department's responsibility is to secure everyone in the city of Austin," Perry said. "If the Highland Mall had called us and said there was something going on, then they would have gotten the same treatment everyone else gets."

TAX: Accounting students assist residents with returns

From page 1A

Students meet with residents at designated community tax centers, which cater to people facing financial limitations, to assist them with whatever they need, said volunteer coordinator Jackie Blair.

The average annual family income for residents who utilize the center's resources is about \$18,000, Blair said.

The class was established in 2004 after Foundation Communities, a nonprofit organization that oversees the centers, recruited UT students to volunteer at locations around Austin.

The nonprofit and the business school collaborated that same year to create an accounting class that requires students to volunteer for 55 hours during 12 weeks at one of 10 centers

"It's very important to have these volunteers. We wouldn't be able to do what we do with this program without them."

— Jackie Blair, volunteer coordinator

before they complete the course, Blair said.

The program has grown from 100 student volunteers in 2004 to 256 this year, she said. Students composed between one-half and one-third of the center's volunteers.

Accounting sophomore Tiffany Wang said the program tests the skills she learned in the class.

"I think [volunteering] was a good way to get involved in the community," said Wang, who

advises at a tax center in South Austin. "It's good exposure to me as an accounting student."

Wang said students in the program have to complete an eight-hour training session before they are allowed to help clients. She started volunteering in February.

"It wasn't that hard to learn, once you have the exposure," Wang said. "For the most part, it's educating clients. Most people don't know what is going on."

Accounting junior Allison Boening said burdensome language may confuse many who try to use the tax return forms.

"Because the tax code is so hefty, they don't know where to start," Boening said.

For some volunteers, the experience is not always positive.

"There was this one lady she thought she was getting a refund, but she ended having to owe \$1,000," said Marianella Focchi, an economics and finance senior. "She started crying. I hate telling people they have to owe money."

Last year, the center filed 17,000 tax returns, and officials said they expect about the same this year.

"It's very important to have these volunteers," Blair said. "We wouldn't be able to do what we do with this program without them."

BOARD: Creation of faculty regent position lacks co-sponsors in Senate

From page 1A

System action," Perro said.

The governor appoints nine members to the board, most of

them businesspeople and lawyers. Students currently have one non-voting member, UT-Dallas economics senior Benjamin Dower, serving on the board.

"Several professors, especially from the University of Texas at Arlington, have expressed a desire to have a voice in these issues," Perro said.

"Clearly, this is a good idea and long overdue," said David Hillis, UT Faculty Council chairman. "The Board of Regents needs a pathway to get

faculty input, just as they do from the student regent member. Faculty have long made this argument. I have no idea whether or not it has much chance of success."

The bill has no co-sponsor standing for it in the Senate, but Perro said the System and current regents have responded positively to the bill.

"We're confident that we have the full support of the Board of Regents," Perro said.

Hillis said it was important for the System to receive tangible

faculty input.

"For faculty, it is very odd that the body in charge of running the UT System is an appointed board consisting of people of varying backgrounds and experiences but often with little or no direct experience in higher education," Hillis said.

Staff members are also pursuing a seat on the board. The UT Staff Council will hear legislation at its meeting next week to appoint a staff regent to serve. No state legislation has been filed on the group's behalf.

THE DAILY TEXAN

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WORLD BRIEFLY

President of Fiji dismantles government, assumes control

SUVA, Fiji — Fiji's president fired the judiciary and assumed control Friday in a rapidly deepening political crisis in the troubled South Pacific nation.

President Ratu Josefa Iloilo announced in a nationally broadcast radio address that he had abolished the constitution, assumed all governing power and revoked all judicial appointments.

The move came one day after the country's second-highest court ruled that the military government that took power after a 2006 coup was illegal, prompting armed forces chief Commodore Frank Bainimarama to say he was relinquishing his post as self-appointed prime minister.

The exact impact of Iloilo's announcement was not clear. The president, who swore Bainimarama into power two years ago, said he would appoint an interim prime minister soon.

He also said Fiji would hold elections in 2014.

Under the constitution, Fiji's president has a mostly ceremonial role as head of state and governing power is held by an elected prime minister and cabinet.

Paparazzi claim body guards opened fire outside wedding

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Costa Rican police are investigating claims by two photographers that they were shot at by bodyguards at the wedding of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and supermodel Gisele Bundchen.

Agence France-Presse photographer Yuri Cortes and Rolando Aviles of Costa Rican newspaper Al Dia claim Bundchen's bodyguards tried to seize their cameras' memory cards and shot at their car when they drove away. Nobody was hurt.

Don Yee is Brady's agent. He has said security personnel reported having no knowledge of the incident.

Compiled from Associated Press reports.

NATION BRIEFLY

Customs agents sieze more than 4 tons of weed in El Paso

EL PASO — U.S. Customs agents have found more than four tons of marijuana in a truck crossing into the United States.

Customs and Border Protection agents found 9,084 pounds of marijuana hidden in a commercial shipment of auto parts being driven across the border from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on Wednesday.

Officials said that when the drugs were found the driver of the 1995 GMC trailer was traveling in the Fee and Secure Trade lane, which requires the driver to be preapproved for expedited entry.

More than 6,600 bundles of marijuana, worth an estimated \$7.2 million, were found mixed in with the auto parts.

Returned war hero chases suspects in dog killings

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A highly decorated Navy SEAL who found his beloved yellow Labrador retriever shot dead outside his home helped capture the alleged gunmen following a high-speed chase through three counties.

Marcus Luttrell stayed on the line with a 911 operator April 1 as he tried to catch the fleeing suspects during the 40-mile chase that reached speeds of over 100 mph.

"I told them, 'You need to get somebody out here because if I catch them I'm going to kill them,'" Luttrell said he told the operator, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Police stopped the suspects and charged two men with cruel-

ty to a non-livestock animal. The driver of the vehicle was cited for not having a license.

There are at least five area dog killings in recent months that could be linked to the case, said Texas Ranger Steven Jeter.

A phone call by The Associated Press to a Walker County court administrator seeking information on attorneys for the men wasn't immediately returned Wednesday.

Luttrell was awarded the Navy Cross for combat heroism in 2006. He is the lone SEAL team member to survive a June 2005 fire-fight with the Taliban in Afghanistan and was given a dog to help him heal after he returned from the war.

"When I saw she was dead, the only thing that popped into my head was, I've got to take these guys out," Luttrell said.

Obama hosts dinner marking important Jewish holiday

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama hosted close friends and staff at a private White House meal Thursday evening to mark Passover. It's part of the new president's effort to reach out to Jewish voters.

The White House said the Seder meal was traditional, including matzo, bitter herbs, a roasted egg and greens in the family dining room in the executive mansion. The evening also featured the reading of the Haggadah, the religious text of the holiday.

Passover began at sundown Wednesday. It celebrates the Jewish exodus from Egypt after 400 years of slavery.

White House aides said they believe it was the first president-hosted Seder at the White House.

Compiled from Associated Press reports.



Khalid Mohammed | Associated Press

An Iraqi car dealer is seen at his automobile lot in Baghdad. Business is booming at Baghdad car dealerships as well-heeled Iraqis begin to take advantage of the relative calm in Iraq and indulge in a passion long out of reach — new, luxury cars.

Calm is cash for Iraqi car dealers

Lower level of violence encourages middle class to invest in new vehicles

By Sameer N. Yacoub
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — BMWs, Nissans, Hyundais and even military-style Hummers are now weaving around the shabby, smoke-belching wrecks and donkey carts that have clogged the streets over two decades of sanctions and war.

That may make Baghdad one of the few cities worldwide where the auto industry is doing relatively well — at least compared to the worst of the war, when sales were stagnant. With its limited banking system, Iraq has largely avoided the global financial meltdown.

And unlike elsewhere in the world, gas prices — about \$1.52 a gallon — aren't much of a deterrent to those Iraqis eager and able to catch up with the good life behind the wheel of a new car.

Those bad days are not entirely over. But with violence ebbing, Iraqis who can afford it are eager

to live large and bask in the status that only a nice new car can bring.

"Despite the high price, driving a new car gives me a great sense of happiness and comfort," said Muhannad Khazim as he cruised an upscale neighborhood with three friends in a 2007 Hyundai Elantra he'd bought two days earlier.

But showrooms are popping up in safer neighborhoods around town to meet the demand. They are offering selections from sleek sports cars to four-wheel-drive behemoths, most imported from Amman, Jordan, or Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Imad Hassan said sales at his Aqaba Dealership in east Baghdad soared about 90 percent in 2008 over the previous year, when fighting in the city peaked.

Last year, he said he sold about three cars a day. So far this year he's selling only about three cars per week, a slump which he says has little to do with the global downturn.

Hassan expects sales to rebound now that the Iraqi government has finally approved a new budget after a drop in oil prices forced several revisions. Many of

his customers for expensive cars are Iraqi businessmen with government contracts. They had to wait for the new budget to get their money.

Hassan Saleh, who sells Japanese and South Korean four-wheel-drive vehicles and American-made Hummers at another east Baghdad dealership, attributes the boom to better security, which has given Iraqis the confidence to treat themselves to luxuries.

"Nowadays, most people are not afraid of driving fancy new cars in the streets. Two years ago, that meant imminent danger of being kidnapped for ransom," said Saleh, who sells about 10 cars a month from his dealership — up 50 percent over 2007.

That's not to say Iraqis don't face problems with a new car.

For one thing, there is no auto insurance offered in Iraq. Owners have to shell out in full for any repairs or maintenance.

That's not enough to discourage Iraqis from shelling out \$27,000 for a 2006 Mustang, \$80,000 for a four-wheel-drive BMW or \$55,000 for an Infiniti — some of the cars on offer during a recent tour of dealerships. Tastes

range from sedans to SUVs. The compact Nissan Sunny model is also popular.

During Saddam Hussein's rule, the most popular brands were Toyota Coronas, which the government imported in early 1980s, followed by Brazilian-made Volkswagen Passats, which the regime bought as part of an arms deal between Iraq and Brazil.

But Saddam's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 brought international sanctions — and a cutoff in the flow of new cars. For the next 13 years until the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, Iraqis were constantly repairing flimsy vehicles that aged fast in the fierce heat, dust and potholed streets.

"I'm fed up with old, broken cars," Muhannad Akram said as he inspected cars at a showroom in the Jadiriya district. He had his eye on a 2007 gray Mitsubishi sedan and was bargaining over the price with the salesman.

"Despite the world economic crisis, Iraq is still the land of big opportunities and flourishing business," said Hassan, the dealer in east Baghdad. "And more and more people are getting rich."

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TEXAS TRAVESTY



THE DAILY TEXAN

VIEWPOINT

Welcome, Rush?

Texas is known for its southern hospitality. So it should come as no surprise that when conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh announced that he’s considering a move to Austin, Gov. Rick Perry personally contacted Limbaugh and encouraged the move. Limbaugh, who currently lives in New York, is sick of the state’s high taxes and wants respite from his hurricane-prone home in Florida. Perry thinks Austin would provide Limbaugh the perfect respite. “I think Austin would be an awesome place for Rush Limbaugh,” Perry told Trail Blazers, a Dallas Morning News blog. Maybe that’s not so true. While some may think it’s weird that Limbaugh, a vitriolic symbol of the political right, would consider moving to Austin, in reality, he might actually fit the bill. Consider recent Austin legislation.

Limbaugh is known for his vehement support of broad Second Amendment rights. Here in Austin, we like guns, too, and we may have to learn to live with them at UT. On Wednesday the House Committee on Public Safety approved a bill that would allow concealed-handgun-license holders to carry guns onto college campuses. Authored by state Rep. Joe Driver, R-Garland, the bill passed by a 5-to-3 vote and has 77 co-sponsors, making its passage semilikely when it hits the House floor. Limbaugh, who has been quoted saying “You know why there’s a Second Amendment? In case the government fails to follow the first one,” would undoubtedly approve.

Limbaugh would also find solidarity in the actions taken by several bars and restaurants that shut their doors in the wake of 40,000 visitors — most of them black — streaming in for the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays last weekend. According to The Daily Texan, several businesses, including the Flamingo Cantina, a Sixth Street reggae club, and Highland Mall, either closed early or completely over the weekend, citing “safety and security of shoppers” as a concern. Limbaugh, who has said slavery “had its merits” because “the streets were safer after dark” — according to News One, an online news platform geared toward blacks — would likely support the businesses’ decisions.

Finally, Limbaugh, who has spoken out against the Iowa Supreme Court’s decision to allow gay marriages, wouldn’t have to worry about similar rights available in Austin. Although more than 300 universities in the country offer domestic partner benefits, the University is not one of them. UT employees’ same-sex spouses do not receive health care benefits on the grounds that Texas law prohibits these types of benefits extensions.

Yeah, Austin is getting weirder. But it has less to do with support for small businesses — the phrase’s original intention — and more to do with its conflicting actions and ideologies. Sure, we vote blue, but in reality, the actions of many in our fair city too often do not back up its reputation.

Perry was right. Should Limbaugh move to Austin, he may just feel right at home.

— Abby Terrell for the editorial board

OBJECTIVE OBSERVATIONS WITH ... BENJAMIN MILLER



Chapter 36: Ironyitis

I’ve been sick recently. I thought it was only a cold and fever, but I’m pretty sure my malady has been making me hallucinate. I cannot fathom what else could explain all the crazy news recently. There is always a fair amount of insanity floating around, but it seems that it has culminated to an apex of irony that borders on dangerous. Here are a few of the things that make me concerned for my mental health:

The Texas State Board of Education has passed legislation requiring students to question common descent, a precept so well proven that even the intelligent-design advocates accept it. Meanwhile, Bill Nye, infamous science guy, lectured to a large and enthusiastic audience at the university on Tuesday. See any conflict?

Gov. Rick Perry announced that he is running for reelection against probable opponent Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, after denying federal funds for unemployment benefits, likely leaving the 6.4 percent of Texans unemployed very eager to vote for him. I theorize that since Perry realizes that Hutchison is already obscenely popular in Texas and a tough opponent, he’s working to assure her victory in the primaries so he can finally feel the cold thrill of losing an election, a sensation he has never before experienced.

Elsewhere on the political front, President Barack Obama has promised to get rid of the world’s nuclear weapons, a move identical to much of the plot of the movie “Superman IV: The Quest for Peace.” Provided that Obama’s archrival (Sen. John McCain) doesn’t take a strand of the president’s hair and use it to make a nuclear clone, the similarities should end there.

I checked my e-mail inbox earlier this week hoping to find some relief in cyberspace, only to find a message inviting me to protest an on-campus speech by David Horowitz. Students wanted to exercise their right to protest to stop someone from exercising his right to speak. Even more ironic is Horowitz’s fame as someone seeking to bring more diversity of opinion to colleges. I don’t find the idea of a protest itself being evidence of my sickness. Protests are getting so commonplace nowadays that to get anyone to attend, you have to differentiate it from the rest, as was the case of the G20 economic summit protest, which included a church service, musicians and a comedian. There’s certainly no shortage of protests at our University, because everyone smart knows that demonstrations are an effective way to get things done. Just ask participants in the Bonus Army or the Tiananmen Square protests. Yes, picketing is obviously the best way to get things done, which is why Palestine is a state, abortion is illegal and why Horowitz canceled his talk immediately upon arriving to campus.

And in the final bits of news that I hope is a product of my sickness, alcohol sales in Austin have increased recently, and a bank robber famous for wearing many hats was sentenced to prison after blaming his crimes partially on alcohol abuse.

Maybe the world is falling apart and my sickness has opened my eyes to the craziness and horrors in society. Or maybe I should just get some rest until I’m cured of whatever’s making me see these disturbing ironies.

Miller is a women's and gender studies freshman.

LEGALESE

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RECYCLE!

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GALLERY



American semantics



By Merrit Martin
Daily Texan Columnist

Back in December, I remember hearing constant assessments of consumer spending. It was down, my radio told me — way down. And this was terrible news for retail outlets. I admit it made me feel a little guilty. Not only was it a constant reminder that there were only five, then four, then three days left until Christmas and I still hadn’t done any of my shopping, but I felt partially responsible for the red in retailers’ ledgers.

I knew this was stupid. I’m not a “consumer.” I’m a person, and buying extra junk for people I love is just this thing I do in December (on Christmas Eve, to be precise). But part of me does identify with the “consumer” label and, I realized, with a few other labels that I don’t think deserve a place in my identity. Regardless, they’ve become monikers exclusive to the American persona.

When we label ourselves “consumers,” for instance, our sole duty is to buy and our sole value is in our purchase power. The title suggests our satisfaction in life comes from what we buy, rather than from anything that might conceivably give our lives real meaning. Plus, since it elevates consuming from a necessity of life to a responsibility for our very identity, the label forces us to accept things like abusive business practices and environmental degradation as inevitable by-products of our existence. As long as moderately priced merchandise, and not ethical behavior or human rights, is our demand as “consumers,” there’s nothing to be done about it.

Another strange label is “taxpayer.” Paying taxes doesn’t define us; it’s just another thing we do. It’s funny when politicians go on TV, as they have recently with the bailout and budget proposals, and decry the effects that some bill would have on the American taxpayer, as if those same taxpayers were not also the ones receiving the (supposed) benefits of the legislation. If they instead labeled us, say, “recipients of benefits of public programs and government regulations,” our reactions would undoubtedly be different. But in reality we’re the same people. The “tax-

payer” label just distorts the debate by avoiding the underlying question of whether we want or need those programs or regulations.

The most disturbing label is the one that has longest been part of my own identity: “individual.” Since I was little, my schools have touted individualism as one of the defining factors of the American spirit. Individualism is supposedly the source of innovation and the justification for liberty. While we might enjoy others’ company, we are to be strongholds of ourselves, needing nothing from people save privacy and peace.

This label suggests that we can — and should — function fully on our own. If we are confused, we need not seek out the advice of friends and mentors. If we are troubled, perhaps depressed, maybe unable to feel satisfied with all the things we bought as “consumers,” we need not seek counseling. Only the weak need that. We as individuals are strong and confident.

This is bad enough, as it denies the fact that humans need — or that “good” humans “should” need — support. But the label has a more sinister implication, too. By defining ourselves as individuals, we can fool ourselves into thinking that we’re somehow outside the society in which we live. When we do that, we might start thinking that society isn’t really important — we don’t need to worry about voting, holding our elected officials accountable or critically considering media and entertainment outlets. Those things don’t really affect us. We’re individuals. We control our own lives.

The current economic situation and political reaction have made it plain that these things do affect us. With the release of each month’s increase in unemployment statistics, this becomes more and more painfully clear. Our lives, whether we would like to admit it, are inextricably tied together.

We can continue to accept these labels that separate us from people surrounding us, or we can choose to define ourselves in new ways that embrace our relation to others. If we begin to define ourselves as part of a community — be it the family, university, state or even the global community — then the things we value and the roles that we consider part of our identity will be more applicable to the way we actually function.

Martin is a Spanish and religious studies sophomore.

THE FIRING LINE

Austin's double standard

I am outraged over the racist hysteria that has been whipped up concerning Texas Relays weekend (“Highland Mall closes early, provoking protest,” “Closed race,” April 6). It is painfully clear that young black people are automatically perceived as criminal by some people in this supposedly liberal city.

According to a recent article in the Austin American-Statesman, this year’s Texas Relays weekend had roughly half as many arrests and citations downtown when compared to this year’s Mardi Gras celebrations or South by Southwest weekend.

In short, there is no massive wave of violence and law-breaking as pictured in the fevered imaginations of some. I was downtown last Friday night during the relay weekend and, other than a ton of extra traffic, I didn’t experience or observe anything out of the ordinary.

Worse yet is the way in which business owners’ decisions to close last weekend has given cover to the most ghastly expressions of racism. Peruse the comments section of any online article about Texas Relays, and you’ll find nasty complaints about black people partying, “bellowing,” “tricked-out rides,” etc.

Let’s compare and contrast. On any given Longhorn football homegame day, the eastern side of campus is in a state of controlled anarchy. We’re encouraged to “be loud and stay late.” Cars are parked illegally everywhere, the streets are choked with tricked-out Winnebagos and there is rampant drug use (alcohol) taking place openly on campus property.

Except we call it “tailgating.” And those with extra money get a parking lot for their RVs and other special places to hang out and party.

The election of Barack Obama dealt a blow

to racism in this country but did not put it in its grave. We have a lot of work to do. We can start by joining the NAACP this Saturday as it protests and calls for a boycott of the Highland mall.

Mike Corwin
UT staff
International Socialist Organization

Make the Grande switch

Time Warner’s bandwidth cap will not just affect those who illegally download files (“Capping Internet usage will inhibit Austin,” April 8). It will affect those who legally share files over networks, buy digital copies of computer games, download music and movies from iTunes, stream movies from Netflix, play games online via computer and/or consoles, watch TV shows online via Hulu, watch clips on YouTube and Vimeo, download security patches for their operating system and virus protection programs and on and on. It is extraordinarily easy to use up even 100 gigabytes of bandwidth in a month. Beaumont is not Austin. To pretend that this is anything other than a money grab is naive.

I urge anyone who uses Time Warner a to switch to Grande Communications or another service that has no intentions of capping bandwidth (sorry, AT&T U-Verse users. Your number’s coming up, too). Contact Verizon and tell them you’d like to see FiOS service in Austin. Do something other than giving your money to a company that is trying to limit what you can do on the Internet.

Mark Adkins
UT alum

End animal testing at UT

Animals are animals. They are not human beings. And yet every day, animals are experimented on by men and women who want to believe the opposite is true (“Scientists defend

medical benefits of animal testing,” April 7). But we simply cannot deny the facts. According to author Tony Page’s “Visisection Unveiled,” less than 2 percent of human illnesses are ever seen in animals. According to a former scientific executive of Huntingdon Life Sciences, animal tests and human results agree only 5 to 25 percent of the time.

We must utilize alternatives to animal testing such as in vitro research, epidemiology, autopsies, genetic, computer and mathematical modeling, just to name a few. None of these alternatives utilize animals, and yet they produce more effective and applicable results — and are much cheaper. Every year, billions of taxpayers’ dollars are wasted in animal research that not only does not work but also leads to misleading and harmful results.

Timothy J. Verret
Membership and volunteer coordinator,
Action for Animals

Longhorn ultimatum

OK, which is it? Are the Longhorn assistant coaches and staff members University staff members or not? It is my understanding that University staff cannot receive bonuses. If they are University staff members, please let me know how my colleagues and I can request/get a bonus. (“Rewarding losers,” April 9).

This is up there with Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds being quoted in The Daily Texan some years ago saying that the football coach got a raise because he, Dodds, did not want any other football coach in the Big 12 having a higher salary. Who do I see to become the highest-paid administrative associate in the Big 12?

Finally, here’s an idea. How about the football coaches get bonuses for every football player who actually graduates?

Bert R. Herigstad
UT staff

Finance reports show closeness in mayoral race

By Pierre Bertrand
Daily Texan Staff

Candidates for city office filed their latest campaign finance reports Thursday, and figures show a tight mayoral race between Mayor Pro Tem Brewster McCracken, Councilman Lee Leffingwell and former Austin mayor Carole Keeton Strayhorn.

With 30 days until the election, McCracken has raised the most money with \$214,038.87. Leffingwell trails with \$128,277, and Strayhorn is third with \$102,249.

“It wouldn’t be that close if Lee hadn’t written himself a \$100,000 check,” McCracken said. “When you have candidates that self-finance, that gives them a huge advantage.”

Leffingwell campaign consultant Mark Nathan said the candidate waited to declare his candidacy for mayor until January to prevent a special election that would replace him while he campaigned. The councilman infused his campaign with personal funds to make up lost fundraising time, Nathan said.

“We actually have more cash on hand than Brewster and Carole,” Nathan said. “There were 35 endorsements in this campaign, and we won 32 of them, so I don’t think it’s a question of momentum.”

McCracken, who generated \$17,778.00 in January, attributed his lead to hard campaigning.

“I’m seeing a lot of positive responses to my message,” McCracken said. “This is a reflection of the support I have. In other words, I out-campaigned my opponents.”

Thursday’s reports reverse

those filed Jan. 15 that placed Strayhorn on top. The former mayor led her opponents when her early fundraising efforts drew \$41,161.90.

Strayhorn’s campaign did not return phone calls from The Daily Texan by press time.

Each of the three candidates has attracted roughly the same amount of contributors, but donation amounts differ per individual.

“When you have candidates that self-finance, that gives them a huge advantage.”

— Brewster McCracken, Mayor Pro Tem

Nathan said McCracken and Strayhorn likely attract higher-income supporters who can afford larger contributions.

McCracken said he will focus on get-out-the-vote efforts and advertisements. He plans to host a fundraiser at Action Figure Studios today.

For Leffingwell, his task now is to remind supporters to vote.

“I think we are in a good position headed into the election,” Nathan said.

The other mayoral candidates, David Buttross and Josiah Ingalls lag far behind. Buttross raised \$1,850, while Ingalls raised \$615.

Early voting starts April 27 and ends May 5. Election day is May 9.

City Council hopefuls discuss green options

By Jonathan Babin
Daily Texan Staff

City Council candidates made their environmental issues known to the public Thursday.

Candidates discussed environmental issues and the energy concerns of Austin citizens at the 2009 Austin Combined Environmental Forum at City Hall.

“Having council members who are willing to stay in touch with the public and be leaders is really important,” said moderator Brandi Clark, who co-founded The AustinEcoNetwork and other environmental programs.

When posed a question about solar energy, Councilwoman Sheryl Cole offered her input.

“I have received a proposal to put a green roof on the convention center, which looked really cool,” she said.

During the question-and-answer session, a citizen asked the participants about the possibility of banning plastic bottles, particularly at fast food establishments.

Cole responded by expressing her distaste with the current

state of plastics polluting creeks in Austin.

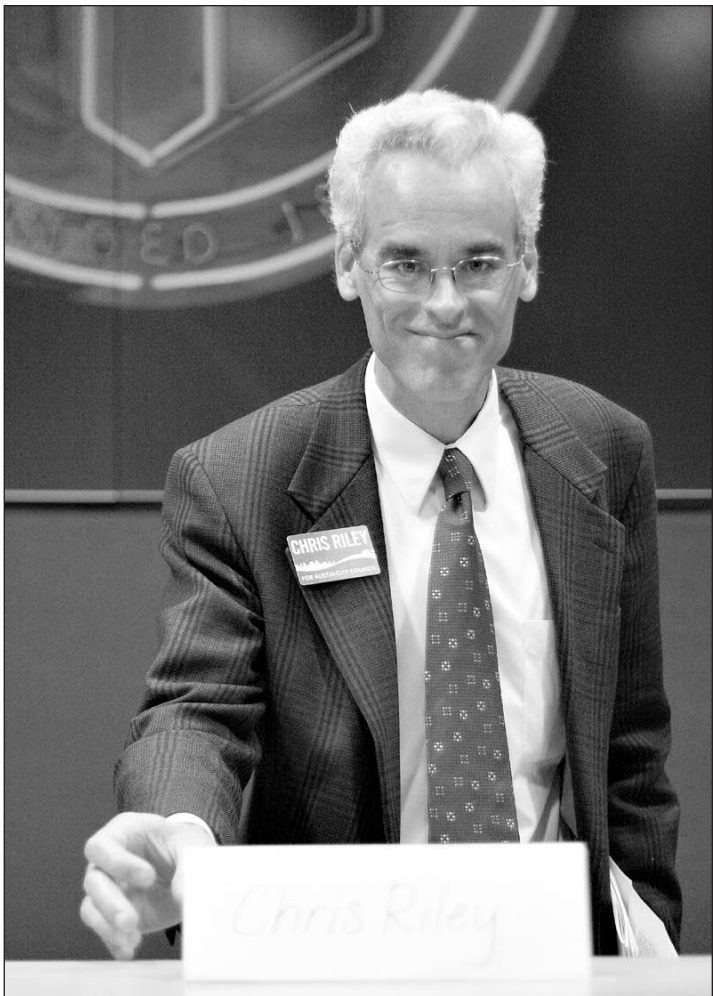
“I get tired of seeing plastic bottles in many of our creeks,” she said. “I don’t think we have enough initiatives to deal with water quality along the Colorado [River].”

During the second forum session, Chris Riley and Perla Cavazos took their turn to battle for the Place 1 council seat. The two candidates were asked about the way they would handle a plan for renewable energy in Austin.

In her opening statement, Cavazos outlined her three main priorities: “helping families in small business, making Austin more affordable and pursuing a long-term comprehensive plan for the city.”

Riley, who co-founded the Alliance for Public Transit and Austin CarShare, said he wanted to move away from reliance on coal and other fossil fuels.

“I am an advocate of a rapid transition to clean energy,” Riley said. “We need to move aggressively to put that into place.”



Maxx Scholten | Daily Texan Staff

City Council candidate Chris Riley adjusts his name plate before answering questions at an environmental forum at City Hall on Thursday. Issues at the forum included solar energy and a plastic-bottle ban. Riley is running against Perla Cavazos for Place 1.

NEWS BRIEFLY

Personal belongings stolen in recent Gregory Gym thefts

Fifteen thefts have been confirmed at Gregory Gymnasium since January, said UTPD Officer Darrell Halstead.

Most of the thefts have occurred at the basketball court in the last two to three weeks.

“[Thieves] are targeting students who are playing basketball on the third floor,” Halstead said. “It usually happens in the evening, the majority after 5 p.m.”

The recent spike has led the department to warn students about the dangers of leaving personal belongings unattended.

Stolen items, most of which

were last seen around the bleachers, include iPods, cell phones, personal identification and wallets containing cash and credit cards. Excluding credit cards, the lost items are worth a total of about \$3,000.

“Students think they can watch their stuff while playing a game of basketball less than 30 feet away,” Halstead said. “Much to their chagrin, they can’t.”

Halstead suggests students either secure valuables in lockers or only bring workout clothes and their UT IDs to the gym.

Gregory Gym does not require a UT ID card for admission as long as visitors can provide information proving they are UT students.

If a student reports suspicious behavior that leads to the identi-

fication of a thief, Halstead said UTPD will give the student a pizza as a reward as part of the Hungry for Justice program.

— Priscilla Totiyapungprasert

U.S. Department of Education cancels PLUS loan auction

The Obama administration may not follow through with promises to revamp the student-loan system despite announcing sweeping changes in federal financial aid policy during budget negotiations.

The U.S. Department of Education announced plans to cancel the auction of federal PLUS loans Thursday.

The rights to administer PLUS loans, which allow parents to borrow the entire cost of their chil-

dren’s college education, were to have been auctioned to two banks in each state.

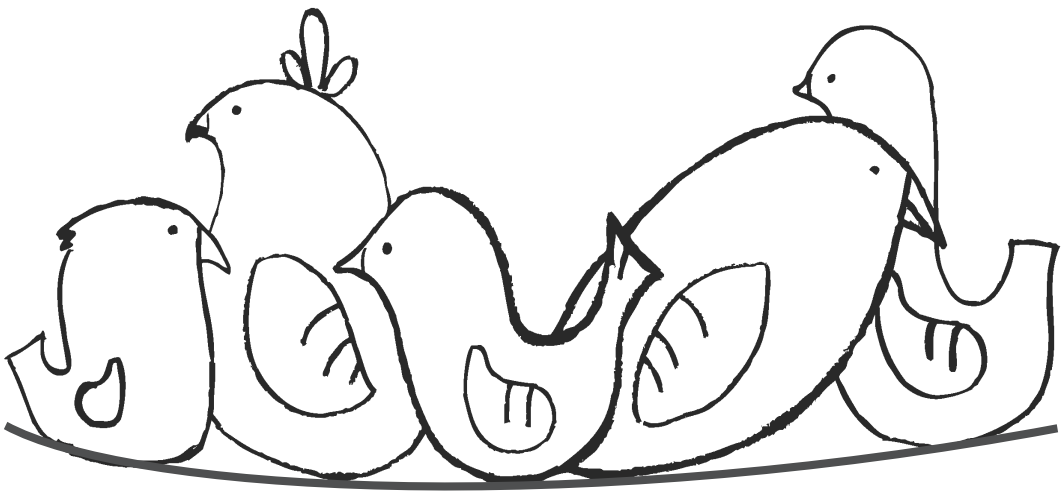
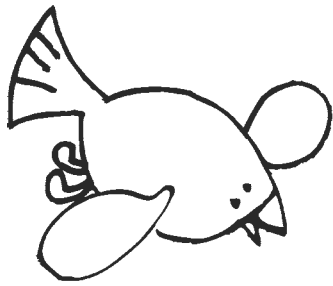
Daniel T. Madzelan, assistant secretary for postsecondary education, said in a letter that in most cases the department had received fewer than two bids per state, with a vast majority of states registering no bids at all.

Plans to take private banks out of the financial aid equation are also in question after the Senate passed a version of the budget that included the elimination of the guaranteed-loan program, but the House did not.

Reconciliation hearings that will decide the future of the program are expected to take place in the next few weeks.

— Mohini Madgakar

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BRG

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MAG

Manor Garage

2017 Robert Dedman Dr. Manor Garage is on the Robert Dedman Drive, directly across the street from Darrell K Royal - Texas Memorial Stadium.

SWG

Speedway Garage

105 E. 27th Street. Speedway Garage is on the corner of 27th and Speedway.

CCG

Conference Center Garage
1900 University Ave. Located on the corner of West 20th Street and University Ave. beneath the AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center.

SAG

San Antonio Garage
2420 San Antonio St. San Antonio Garage is between 24th and 25th Streets.

TRG

Trinity Garage
1815 Trinity St. Trinity garage is located on the corner of MLK and Trinity.

GUG

Guadalupe Garage
1616 Guadalupe St. Guadalupe Garage is located on the southeast corner of San Antonio St. and W. 17th Street.

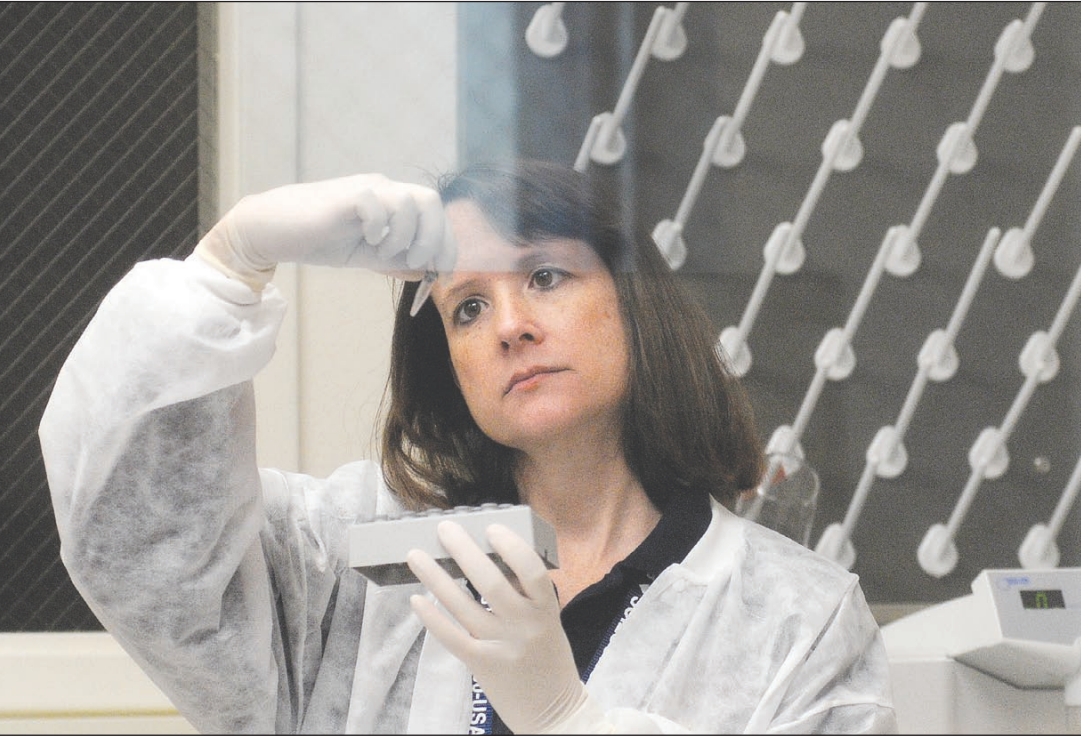
SJG

San Jacinto Garage
2401 San Jacinto Blvd. San Jacinto Garage is between 24th and Dean Keeton (formerly 26th) Streets.

TSG

27th Street Garage
109 W. 27th St. 27th St. garage is on the corner of University Blvd. and 27th St.

Legislation may increase size of criminal DNA database



Sara Young | Daily Texan Staff
Cassie Carradine, who runs the Austin Police Department’s DNA lab, demonstrates a forensic procedure. DNA crime samples are compared against a national database that may be seeing more Texas involvement.

By Avi Selk
Daily Texan Staff

As police praise a national DNA database for helping solve local crimes, lawmakers are proposing legislation that could more than double the number of Texas offenders whose genetic codes are cataloged.

The Combined DNA Index System — an FBI database of DNA profiles from convicted offenders and unsolved crimes from across the country — has extended the reach of local police agencies far beyond what was possible a decade ago. Several bills are under consideration in the Texas Legislature this year that would significantly broaden the state’s role in the program.

The Texas Department of Public Safety submits DNA from about 70,000 convicted felons to the database each year, said Gary Molina, the database’s program manager at the department.

Texas has submitted DNA for more than 416,000 offenders to the system, which includes DNA

profiles from nearly 7 million convicts nationwide.

For more than a decade, Texas as lawmakers have regularly expanded the list of offenses for which convicts must submit their DNA. When the state began contributing to the database in 1997, police only collected samples from sex offenders, but subsequent laws soon extended the collection to nearly all imprisoned felons.

Two identical bills in the Texas House of Representatives would require DNA collection from anyone convicted of a serious misdemeanor, from marijuana possession to bicycle thefts. The legislation would add more than 260,000 Texas offenders to the FBI database within five years, according to a Legislative Budget Board estimate.

Another bill, which the state Senate could vote on as early as next week, would allow the state to collect DNA from those sentenced to probation or deferred adjudication, adding an estimated 60,000 Texans a year to the database and almost doubling the state’s current rate of DNA submissions.

But as Texas and other states submit DNA from more and more of their prisoners to the database, civil rights groups are growing increasingly concerned.

“I think that goes too far,” said Jim Harrington, director of the Texas Civil Rights Project, of the proposed expansions.

Harrington said DNA collection from violent criminals is justified but that expansions could create a “grave potential for abuse.”

“By the time you get to a misdemeanor, a minor offense, it’s lost its legitimacy,” he said of the database.

Police disagree, pointing to hundreds of cases in which the DNA database has cracked a case.

Last week, the database led police to their first arrest in a North Austin murder that had stumped investigators for more than two years.

When Steven Talley was found stabbed to death on Blessing Avenue in February 2007, police had few leads. One of their only clues was a DNA sample recovered from the crime scene that police submitted to the database to check for a match among the millions genetic profiles.

The search returned no matches that year, or the next. But at some point after the

murder, DNA was collected from a man named Joseph Lee after he was convicted of an unrelated crime in another jurisdiction. Police could not say by press time exactly when or where he was convicted.

In February, the search turned up a match between Lee’s DNA and the sample from the murder scene. Days later, Lee confessed during questioning to stabbing Talley, police announced last week.

Nationwide DNA searches have helped police solve more than 3,000 crimes in Texas since 1996, Molina said. In December, police used DNA recovered from a disguise worn during an Austin bank robbery to pinpoint a suspect in California.

Inside Austin’s DNA lab

Cassie Carradine, who runs the Austin Police Department’s DNA lab, said DNA is not a replacement for fingerprint analysis or any other investigative method, but that the federal database has helped the department solve dozens of crimes.

Between 30 and 40 times a month, Carradine’s lab uses robots to isolate DNA from blood, semen, saliva or other biological samples recovered from crime scenes. A \$90,000 computer then converts each sample to an electronic profile of 13 genetic markers.

The electronic profiles contain only a minute fraction of the genetic information in each strand of DNA — what Carradine called “junk regions” — but are nevertheless unique to every human being.

The APD lab then sends crime-scene DNA to be checked at the Texas Department of Public Safety, whose personnel have access to FBI software that can search the database.

So far, the lab has sent 477 samples to be searched — mostly for property crimes and sexual assaults — and has received matches on 83. Carradine called it a “pretty good” success rate.

She noted that police could only use the database to check DNA that was directly linked to an open case. For example, they could not simply scoop up all the cigarette butts found near a crime scene and check them for matches.

“[The index system] is kind of like the icing on the cake for us,” she said. “The cake is the majority of what we do day in and day out.”

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MOUH

UT ‘Peers for Pride’ students present GLBT monologues

By Priscilla Totiyapungprasert
Daily Texan Staff

Nine students presented monologues on different identities within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community Thursday evening at the Will C. Hogg Building.

The students are participating in a new two-semester course called “Peers for Pride,” which allows students to interact with an audience about GLBT-related current events and cultural topics.

“[The students] learn about identity, what’s it like to be gay in America, what’s hard to talk about and how to talk about it,” said Shane Whalley, the program’s director and course instructor.

The idea came to Whalley after government senior Linda Dominguez presented her monologue as a final project in Whalley’s social-work class two semesters ago.

“It’s similar to ‘The Vagina Monologues,’ except I wrote it for the LGBTQ community to raise awareness for other groups of people,” Dominguez said.

Whalley required participants to submit an application and go through an interview before they are accepted to the course. The six-credit-hour class

counts in both the social work and women’s and gender studies programs.

The program also trains students to lead campus workshops, where they present the five- to eight-minute monologues for a final project. Students encourage audience interaction at the workshops, allowing the crowd to ask them questions while they portray the identities represented.

The workshops have nurtured the creative side of the mind, said government senior Jessie Beal, who performed at the presentation.

During the course, students follow issues in the news, including same-sex marriage, hate crimes and popular culture. They have also discussed whether characters and stereotypes presented by mass media — such as the reality TV show “RuPaul’s Drag Race” — help or hurt the GLBT community, Whalley said.

Students in the program also learn how to respond to arguments and handle situations that stem from misconceptions.

“People would ask triggering questions and have misunderstandings, but now I can see where they’re coming from, and I know how to answer,” said humanities senior Lizzy Dupont.



Lizzy Dupont, a humanities senior, performs her monologue at the “Peers for Pride” program Thursday evening.
Lauren Gerson
Daily Texan Staff



Mary Kang | Daily Texan Staff

Sophomore Brittany Barnhill pitches against Houston during a doubleheader March 18. Barnhill is 19-7 on the year with a 2.84 ERA, but she has been contributing on offense recently.

SOFTBALL

Reeling from Baylor loss, Longhorns face Huskers

By Dan Hurwitz
Daily Texan Staff

Looking to get back on the winning track, the Longhorns head to Lincoln, Neb., to face the Cornhuskers in a two-game series beginning this evening. Sophomore Brittany Barnhill and company will try to rebound after losing their first game in more than two weeks to Baylor on Wednesday. Despite out-hitting Baylor, the Longhorns were unable to score enough runs. Three runners were left on base

in the final inning when Nadia Taylor couldn't keep the late rally going. The Longhorns are not too discouraged despite losing their last game. "I think there are always things you have to improve on," Barnhill said. "You just have to get it done." With a slight lead in the Big 12 standings, Texas (31-12, 7-2 Big 12) takes on the Huskers (26-11, 3-5) in a pivotal series. The Longhorns, hoping to start another winning streak, remain confident while heading into the end of the season.

FRIDAY: No. 20 Texas (31-12, 7-2 Big 12) at Nebraska (26-11, 3-5)
WHERE: Bowlin Stadium (Lincoln, Neb.)
WHEN: 5 p.m.

"I've always been confident, but I think, more importantly, they are confident now that they have what it takes to win," said Texas head coach Connie Clark.

HUSKERS continues on page 2B

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Horns have chance to capture Big 12 with a win in Waco

Texas hopes hot doubles pair can help squad net fifth-straight league match

By Rishi Daulat
Daily Texan Staff

It's the clash of the undefeated Big 12 teams. The match in Waco between No. 31 Texas and No. 3 Baylor on Sunday will decide the conference's regular-season title. Texas is riding a four-match winning streak, and the team is 7-0 in conference play and 12-5 overall. Singles player Sarah Lancaster has been the epitome of solid solo play for the Horns with an astounding 15-2 record on the year. Freshman Krista Damico and sophomore Maggie Mello have been in top form lately, each winning eight of her last nine singles matches. The Bears' resume is equally stacked. The singles lineup consists of ITA-ranked players No. 37 Jelena Stanivuk, No. 43 Lenka Broosova, No. 44 Taylor Ormond and No. 74 Csilla Borsanyi. Their top singles players also make up the team's top doubles pairs: Broosova and Borsanyi are ranked No. 16 while Stanivuk and Ormond are ranked No. 59. Baylor is on a nine-match winning streak and has notable victories against No. 4 Notre Dame, No. 6 Miami, No. 7 Georgia Tech, No. 11 UCLA, No. 19 North Carolina and No. 23 Kentucky. Broosova was named the latest Big 12

SUNDAY: No. 31 Texas (12-5, 8-0 Big 12) at No. 3 Baylor (15-4, 6-0)
WHERE: Baylor Tennis Center (Waco)
WHEN: Noon

Player of the Week. The team is 15-4 overall and has won all six of its matches in conference play. Last season, the Bears defeated the Longhorns 7-0 in Austin and then defeated Texas 4-1 in the Big 12 Tournament. The Horns know they can be nothing short of stellar if they want a chance at defeating this year's Baylor team. The Longhorns' top player, Vanja Corovic, is ready for the challenge. "Baylor's always on top of the Big 12, so we are going to have to play really well to get a win, but it's exciting playing one of the best teams," she said. Corovic, Texas's only ITA-ranked player, said she is at full strength after missing time with an injury. The team played much more comfortably in its last match against Missouri with the return of Corovic to the singles lineup. The Longhorns took five of the six singles matches, and each victory was completed in straight sets. "We're looking forward to the challenge of playing Baylor at Baylor," said Texas head coach Patty Fendick-McCain. "The girls have been working hard and are mentally preparing for the battle."



Paul Chouy | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman Krista Damico returns the ball during the team's March 7 match against Texas A&M. Having won eight of her last nine matches, Damico has been critical to the Longhorns' recent success.

From pom-poms to shot put



Paul Chouy | Daily Texan Staff

All-American Jordyn Brown throws the shot put at 2008's Texas Relays. Brown, who walked on her freshman year, is now an integral part of the team, placing fourth at the national indoor championships in March.

Brown planned on cheering in college but has found place on team

By Chris Tavaréz
Daily Texan Staff

Unconventional. Unorthodox. Weird. In the words of head track coach Beverly Kearney, "she came in unusual to begin with." These are just a few of the many statements used to describe junior thrower Jordyn Brown's rise to All-American status. Of all the athletes competing in the NCAA, only a select few are fortunate enough to become All-Americans, though most enter with attaining the status as one of their main goals. Unless that athlete is Brown. Her unusual rise to the top of track and field almost never happened. When she was growing up, her first

"I was really bored. The spirit organization thing was fun, but something was missing. [Walking on] was kind of like a last-ditch effort to get involved with the University."

— Jordyn Brown, shot-putter

love was cheerleading. Instead of throwing the shot put, she grew up throwing other girls in cheer routines. "One of my friends got me into cheerleading, and from the time I was 10 until the time I graduated high school, it was a huge part of my life," Brown said. It even appeared that cheerleading

was going to determine where Brown would go to college. "Initially, we thought she was going to Louisville to cheer for college," said her mother Joy Brown. "That was the plan. We actually went to Louisville and toured the campus."

BROWN continues on page 2B

MEN'S TENNIS

Texas succeeds in singles, doubles to blank Islanders

Damico, Kutrovsky cruise with straight sets to help Texas win 7-0

By Rishi Daulat
Daily Texan Staff

All year, Texas head coach Michael Center has been looking for some consistency from his players. On Thursday, he finally saw some of it. The No. 13 Longhorns put in an amazing singles performance along with a solid doubles showing to cruise by No. 50 Texas A&M Corpus

Christi 7-0. Center was thoroughly pleased with his team's performance. "That was by far the most complete match we've played all season," he said. "The doubles point was tough, but we got on them really quick in the singles and that made all the difference." Sophomore Kellen Damico picked up his fourth consecutive singles victory with straight sets, winning 6-1 and 6-3. The ITA No. 30 duo of Damico and Ed Corrie won

TENNIS continues on page 2B



Ed Currie, part of Texas' No. 30 doubles pair, dishes out a backhand on Thursday against the Islanders.

Jacqueline Gilles
Daily Texan Staff

HUSKERS: Freshmen providing team with offense

From page 1B

Much of this confidence is due to the performance of the freshmen who have become regulars in the starting lineup.

Taylor, Courtney Craig and Lexy Bennett make up the middle of the lineup and have contributed significantly on offense and in the field.

“Early in the season, [the freshmen] were very quiet,” Clark said. “Now, they are communicating and they are a little more comfortable settling in working side by side.”

With all three of the freshmen hitting in the .300s, the Longhorns’ softball program should be among the elite in the coming years.

“They were recruited for that reason,” Clark said. “We knew they would be impact players both offensively and defensively.”

Also making a surprise contribution is Barnhill, not because of her performance in the circle but rather at bat.

“I like to try to contribute,” Barnhill said. “I just try to make the best of each at-bat and do what I can to help my team win.”

Barnhill has raised her batting average over 100 points since spring break.

“I’m trying to go up to the plate confident and knowing where they place the ball in certain situations,” Barnhill said. “I think confidence is the main thing and staying in the lineup. It’s been working well for me lately.”

Barnhill and the Longhorns need to get back to their winning ways to remain atop of the Big 12.

But the Horns aren’t too worried. “As long as we keep playing hard, we will be just fine,” Barnhill said.



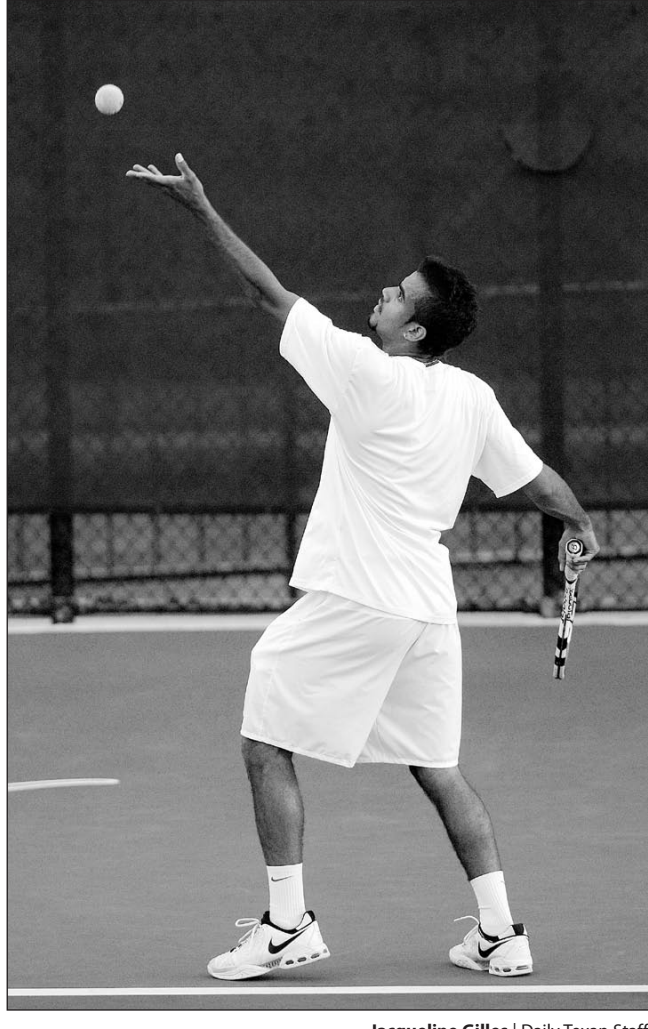
Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman infielder Nadia Taylor steps up to the plate in a game versus Oklahoma on March 29 that the Longhorns won 9-7 in Austin. Taylor is one of three freshman batters who are hitting more than .300 this season.

TENNIS: Men drop Corpus with ease, prepare for No. 12 Texas A&M April 16

From page 1B

their doubles match as well, 9-7. The No. 38 tandem of Josh Zavala and Dimitar Kutrovsky took care of business on their end as they clinched the doubles point 9-8. Kutrovsky, Texas’ top singles player and the 14th-ranked tennis player in the country, was the second player to finish for the Horns, winning 6-1, 6-3.



Jacqueline Gilles | Daily Texan Staff

Olivier Sajous serves against Texas A&M Corpus Christi on Thursday. Sajous won his singles match 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 (10-8).

“That was by far the most complete match we’ve played all season.”

— Michael Center, head coach

The closest match of the night was at the sixth singles spot where Texas’ Jon Wiegand took out the Islanders’ James Langford in thrilling fashion, 6-2, 5-7, 1-0 (10-1). Corrie, Zavala and Olivier Sajous also picked up singles victories for Texas.

The Horns met Corpus Christi in last year’s NCAA tournament. Texas won that contest 4-0.

Texas now has a week off before it heads to College Station to take on No. 12 Texas A&M in the State Farm Lone Star Showdown on April 16 at 6 p.m.

BROWN: ‘Unusual’ field star helping Longhorns place in Big 12, NCAAs

From page 1B

Then, for some reason, the plan suddenly changed.

“When I actually started applying to schools, Texas was the only school that I applied to that I wasn’t trying to cheer at,” Jordyn Brown said. “Maybe it was fate, but cheerleading kind of subsided, and I wasn’t feeling it as much anymore.”

That’s when Brown’s mother saw her chance to push her daughter into pursuing track in college. During Brown’s senior year at Mesquite High School, her mother sent a letter to field coach Rose Brimmer, asking for information on what it would take for Jordyn to join the team. Once Brown arrived on the 40 Acres, Brimmer tried to gauge her interest in continuing athletics in college.

“I called [Jordyn] when she got here,” Brimmer said. “She said, ‘Oh no, I don’t think I’m going to do any throwing, I’m just going to go to school.’ I just said, ‘OK, if you change your mind, give me a call.’”

But Brown’s mother knew Jordyn couldn’t go to school without getting involved in something, and she was right — just not about what that something was.

“I was a member of the Longhorn Honeys, which is a spirit or-

ganization on campus,” Brown said. “We would go to volleyball games, and they looked like they were having so much fun.”

Even though she was a member of the Honeys, the freshman still searched for something else.

“I was really bored,” Brown said. “The spirit organization thing was fun, but something was missing. [Walking on] was kind of like a last-ditch effort to try and get involved with the University.”

As excited as her mother was about Jordyn going in to talk to the coaches, she was a bit skeptical as to how long her daughter would last in college athletics.

“When [Brimmer] told her that they practice at 6:30 in the morning, I bet my brother \$20 that she wouldn’t last a month,” Joy said. “I said Jordyn’s not a morning person.”

After learning of her background as a cheerleader and seeing her athleticism in person, the coaches knew they had someone special on their hands.

“I knew that she was talented,” Brimmer said. “She would jump and do black flips, and I’m like, ‘Wow, this is going to be an amazing kid. This is really a diamond in the rough.’”

After a tough start to a collegiate career that saw Brown com-

pletely change her form and start from scratch, the junior thrower has grown into a track force. Brown placed second at the Big 12 meet this February and fourth at the NCAA indoor meet in March when she was named an All-American. At the first meet of the outdoor season, she qualified for the NCAA regional meet held at the end of May.

“It’s been amazing to watch the speed by which she’s made those adjustments,” Kearney said. “We knew that it was just a matter of time before she would be able to score at the conference championship because of her athleticism.”

In the process of becoming an All-American, Brown also earned a week off to see her favorite band, Need to Breathe, an alternative Christian group, in San Antonio.

“I made a deal with my coach that if I got top five at nationals that I could take the weekend off to go see [Need to Breathe] in San Antonio,” Brown said earlier this season. “I’d like to say that was my only motivation at the meet, which definitely isn’t true.”

That’s not the type of motivation most athletes would use to become an All-American, but with Jordyn Brown, would you really expect anything else?

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Volleyball team faces changes this spring with new schedule

The Texas volleyball team will host an Orange-White scrimmage April 25 at the Recreational Sports Center on campus.

It is the team’s only scheduled game this spring as the Longhorns canceled a match with Houston that would have taken place on the same day.

The team returns six starters from last year’s co-Big 12 championship squad, including All-American Lauren Paolini. Paolini will travel with the USA Volleyball squad to Egypt this summer to play a pair of exhibition matches in Cairo.

The exchange is part of a program intended to build relations between the Olympic committees of the U.S. and Egypt.

— Will Anderson

Baseball game postponed to Friday due to poor weather

The No. 9 Longhorns’ baseball team had to wait another day for their series opener against Big 12

Rangers make bullpen moves following record-setting start

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers sent right-handed reliever Willie Eyre on a rehabilitation assignment to Triple-A Oklahoma.

Eyre, who began the season on the disabled list with a groin injury, was scheduled to pitch Thursday night for Oklahoma after being assigned there.

The Rangers said right-hander Dustin Nippert, on the DL with a back injury, would do a rehabilitation assignment at Double-A Frisco. Nippert is scheduled to start for the RoughRiders on Saturday night.

— The Associated Press

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KEYS: Happy Perez explains the joys, uses of MiKo MIDI workstation

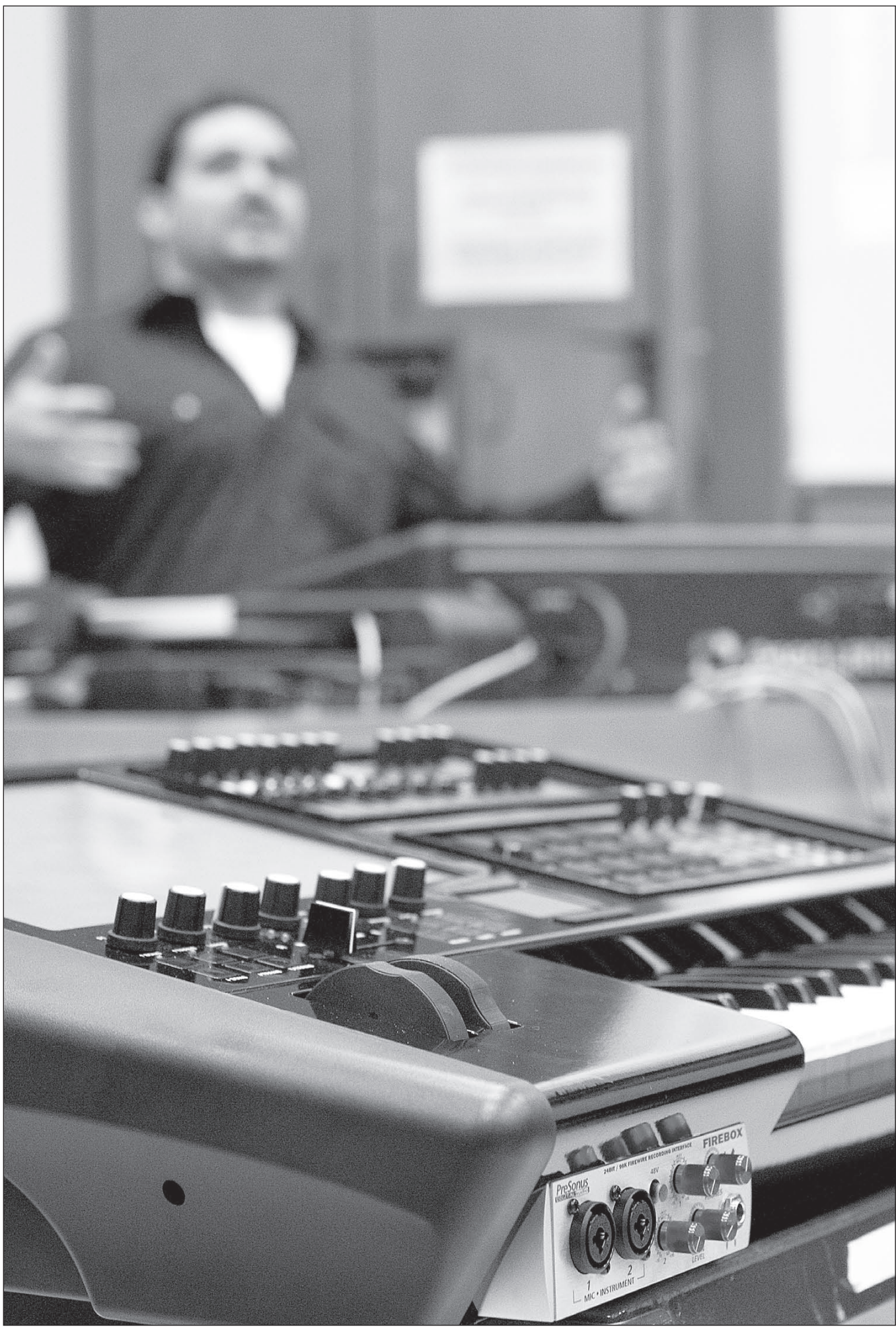
From page 6B

Open Labs has loaned a MiKo LXD, the 37-key version of the keyboard-synth workstation, to the School of Music, MediaTech and ACC Northridge. The product boasts a 15-inch touchscreen interface and an external backlit QWERTY keyboard, while running a Windows operating system. Most MIDI workstations, which synchronize electronic musical instruments with computers, function with only rolling software that is often manufactured by the company selling the product and of lower quality.

“Now everyone knows about it in the industry. If they don’t have one, they’re in the midst of getting one.”

— Happy Perez, hip-hop producer

Perez is more of a Mac guy, but he said the PC workstation wasn’t hard to get used to. Perez said the Open Labs workstations are becoming the industry standard. The company’s clients include Bo Koster of My Morning Jacket, Madonna’s keyboard artist Ric’key Paigeot, Timbaland and Prince’s keyboard artist Morris Hayes. “Now everyone knows about it in the industry,” Perez said. “If they don’t have one, they’re in the midst of getting one.” Open Labs, in its sixth year of existence, has been on the upturn since 2007, when it released special editions called the MiKo TIM and the NeKo TSE, named after Grammy award-winning super-producer Timbaland. The workstation will be on loan to the School of Music throughout the semester, and Open Labs plans to hold one more class at UT, scheduled for April 29. The company will also hold more classes at MediaTech and ACC Northridge.



Karina Jacques | Daily Texan Staff

Happy Perez lectures on the uses of the MiKo keyboard, a convenient MIDI workstation produced by Open Labs Inc. in Austin.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFLY

Britney Spears halts Vancouver concert for excessive smoke

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The new and improved Britney Spears apparently isn’t a fan of cigarette smoke while she’s performing. The 27-year-old pop star left the stage for about 30 minutes during a concert in Vancouver on Wednesday night, apparently because of smoke in the audience. According to The Vancouver Sun, Spears’ concert was halted about 15 minutes into her performance, and an announcer told concertgoers to put out their cigarettes. Some audience members grew impatient while waiting for Spears and her troupe to return to the stage, the Sun reported. After she returned and ended the show, Spears — who has been to rehab and is on the comeback trail after a long stretch of troubles — told the crowd, “Don’t smoke weed.” Spears’ publicist, Holly Shaker, said “crew members above the stage became ill due to a ventilation issue.”

‘South Park’ ridicules Kanye West for boundless hubris

NEW YORK — “South Park” may have accomplished the impossible — getting Kanye West to check his ego. The Comedy Central show skewered the famously self-important rapper on its show Wednesday night, painting him as a narcissistic figure so out of touch with reality he couldn’t even take a (very politically incorrect) joke. On his blog Thursday, West appeared chastened, and ready to turn over a new leaf. In typical all-caps mode, he wrote: “SOUTH PARK MURDERED ME LAST NIGHT AND IT’S PRETTY FUNNY. IT HURTS MY FEELINGS BUT WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM SOUTH PARK! I ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON MY EGO THOUGH. HAVING THE CRAZY EGO IS PLAYED OUT IN MY LIFE AND CAREER.” West said that he started stroking his ego long ago to build up his self esteem — but he now realizes he needs to “GET PAST MYSELF.” In the self-reflective post, he said that people won’t take him seriously if he keeps it up. “I JUST WANT TO BE A DOPPER PERSON WHICH STARTS WITH ME NOT ALWAYS TELLING PEOPLE HOW DOPE I THINK I AM,” he said.

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Yesterday's solution

4	1	5	2	6	8	9	7	3
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3	5	8	4	1	6	2	9	7
1	4	6	9	2	7	5	3	8
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food vs. sleep

i'm starving. you want to eat?

yes.

well, what do you want to eat?

i don't know.

burger king?

no.

chipotle?

no.

rudy's?

no.

mcDonalds?

no.

Well what do you want then?

nevermind. i want a nap.

www.runcupcakerun.blogspot.com

This Just In: by Michael Murphy 2009

PIGGY BANK BAILOUT

SCATTER

Asphodel Meadows by Asphodel Meadows

"For Sean"

Why so sad, emo kid?

I'm trapped in these tiny pants, & they're crushing my junk!

I'll save you with my art supplies!

I'm really sorry.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0306

Across

1 Tetanus symptom

7 1980s-'90s action/adventure series

15 Square off against

16 Being borrowed by

17 The world, per the Bard

18 Be in a fix, say

19 It may be glassy

20 Key

21 Low reef

22 Sender of the Caledonian boar

24 Insignificant injury

26 Prefix with -polis

27 "The Great Broxopp" playwright, 1921

29 1989 French Open winner and others

31 Academic area

35 Name tag?

36 "Cómo es ___?" ("How come?" in Cádiz)

38 Follower of drop or shut

39 It includes mayo

40 Doctor who's friends with Matthew Mugg

43 Prize

45 New Jersey setting of "Coneheads"

47 "All You Need ___" (2008 Morrissey song)

48 Dance around a high chair?

49 It doesn't include a bonus

51 Annual stretch of trois mois

53 Physicist Ampère

55 Noted role for Maria Callas

57 With 60-Across, hypocrite's mantra

59 Cry that may forestall a lame excuse

60 See 57-Across

61 Backpedaler's words

62 Forward and back, e.g.

63 "St. Elsewhere" actor David

Down

1 Stepping-off points: Abbr.

2 Yellow-green shade

3 Place to receive communion

4 Tackle

5 1966 Tony winner for "Marat/Sade"

6 Julie, e.g.: Abbr.

7 Philosophies that regard reality as one organic whole

8 Without ___ (daringly)

9 It's next to 10-Down, both in an adage and literally in this puzzle

10 See 9-Down

11 Derivative cry

12 Feature of some shirts

13 See 28-Down

14 Thickly fibrous

20 Using

23 One way around town

25 What few people live for: Abbr.

26 Breakdown cause

28 With 13-Down, here and there, to Henri

30 Start pulling down more?

32 Certain section

33 Barry B. Longyear novella that won Hugo and Nebula awards

34 Certain

37 Brazilian greeting

41 Subject for a W.S.J. article

42 Early developments

44 Upset

46 Sharjah's fed.

48 Ledger with lines

50 As a friend, to Frédéric

51 Mom in "Hairspray"

52 Blow

54 ___ City, Fla.

56 Pro in briefs?: Abbr.

58 Paradise in literature

59 Family member

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CANADA ONELAP BEWARE SIDELINED PARKA LESE IMAX IDEA UDDER SORE EMANATED ATLAS IDITARODTRAIL IRENE GOODNESS CART SERGE TREY ELSE CRAM SPEAR ROOTCANAL PEDIGREE ONAJAG ORIOLES RECEDE PEERED ARETOTO

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Memphis - by Ryan Hailey

knuckle tats

ERRATA

the Kitchen Sink

BY JEREMY JOHNSON

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Hey! STOP doing the sudoku! Get off the Forty Acres bus... ...and drop us a line!

BAND: Member relishes recent popularity

From page 6B

duct tape, dragged down the stairs and tossed in a shallow grave for the “Dirt Room” video, a dark comic clip that finds him playing a robber caught breaking into a soccer mom’s home. Long story short: Soccer mom fights back.

“I didn’t want to do anything too serious with that video, no more playing the ‘wah-wah’ game,” he said. “Kevin Kerslake is an amazing director, and I just embraced his idea for me to be the robber and let the girl kick my ass.”

The greatest thing about both Furstenfeld and the group is that they’ve remained humble, despite a dramatic rise in popularity and the addition of several new cities to their touring repertoire.

“It’s really amazing to go through London or Amsterdam and just see 300 kids who are so passionate,” Furstenfeld said. “They’ve never seen us, and the passion on their faces is unbelievable.”

For now, the band is back on the road, bringing the one-of-a-kind live show to audiences the world over. And yeah, Furstenfeld’s happier now, but unfortunately for his critics, he’s also damn determined.

“The fact that we’re popular now is so great because it means that maybe now I can put my daughter through college and give her a better life,” he said. “I’m not the only one in my future now, so we’re not gonna let anything negative get in the way. Or if it does, we’ll just step over and kick its ass.”

Blue October will be playing at Stubb’s tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Stimulating jazz collaboration hits Austin

Ab Baars Trio teams up with Ken Vandermark for inventive concert

By Andy O’Connor
Daily Texan Staff

When two different artists collaborate, the result can either be bountiful or a mess of half-baked ideas. Luckily, the pairing of Amsterdam’s Ab Baars Trio and Chicago’s Ken Vandermark is definitely the former.

Both play free jazz, which favors loose, sometimes chaotic instrumentation and eschews conventional rhythms and time signatures. Baars hails from the European avant-garde school, which places more emphasis on the “free” part of free jazz. Vandermark is influenced by the Chicago brand of free jazz that incorporates a little more structure into the improvised madness.

“I’m not the kind of guy that has one idea and makes a program based on this one idea,” said Ab Baars, the trio’s tenor saxophonist. “I’m interested in chaos, I’m interested in the jazz tradition and I would like to give the jazz tradition a contemporary feel.”

Vandermark argues that challenging the norms is the main purpose of art.

“Real art works against boundaries and categories, and this is what I am interested in as a creative individual,” said Ken Vandermark, who also plays the tenor saxophone. “This means constant challenge and risk, and it demands an open-minded audience.”

Baars and Vandermark first met in 1999 when the ICP Orchestra, with which Baars was touring, made a stop in Chicago. Vandermark invited Baars to do play a session at a club with him, and both showed interest in collaborating.

As a result, Vandermark made



Courtesy Francesca Patella

Ken Vandermark, left, and Ab Baars practice for their collaborative concert at the Victory Grill tonight at 8 p.m. The Ab Baars Trio and Vandermark have been working together since the 2007 release of the Trio’s record *Goofy June Bug*.

a guest appearance on the Ab Baars Trio’s 2007 record *Goofy June Bug*. Influenced by “the great tenor duo groups [such as] Stitt/Ammons [and] Griffin/Davis,” Vandermark said, the album puts his and Baars’ strengths on full display.

Vandermark uses more composition and “larger forms,” while Baars is more improvisational. Combined, they move throughout several moods fluidly.

“Having a guest is always very stimulating because a good musician always brings in something unexpected, something refreshing,” Baars said.

Baars also likes working with guests because it allows the Trio to become a tighter, more knowledgeable band.

“It’s been exciting to find my way into their aesthetic world. ...”

— Ken Vandermark, free jazz musician

“We always play different because the language has become richer,” he said.

Vandermark said the collaboration showcases much “intensive playing but also elements of chamber music.” He mentioned that collaborating with Baars provided new artistic challenges.

“With this project, I am a guest joining an ensemble that has a two decade history of playing together,” Vandermark said. “It’s been exciting to find my way into their aesthetic world and to try and contribute to it without being redundant.”

The Ab Baars Trio and Ken Vandermark descend upon Victory Grill (1104 E. 11th St.) tonight

at 8 p.m. Vandermark stresses the importance of preserving historical buildings — the Victory Grill was a central part of the “Chitlin’ Circuit” in the early to mid-20th century and has remained a landmark of East Austin.

“It’s easy to tear something down, but it’s impossible to replace the history that was built there,” he said. “Sustaining a creative performance space is a real challenge in this country, but it’s twice as hard to start a new venue, to convince people to trust in the programming, to ‘break it in’ and make it feel like a home for the work of the musicians.”

Fashion senior draws inspiration from her mother

Editor’s note: This is the fourth part in a series about textiles and apparel seniors and their fashion show held at the end of the semester.

By Juan Elizondo
Daily Texan Staff

Sewing, stitching, sketching. Assisting with photo shoots at one job and restocking books at another. Serving as president of an organization and preparing to move to New York, all while producing a four-garment collection for a runway show, a full-time student at UT. This is the routine for textiles and apparel senior Mallory Garmon.

Garmon’s passion is rooted deep in her past. She grew up with a mother who was a personal shopper. As a child, Garmon accompanied her mother while she shopped for clients.

When Garmon was in middle school, her grandmother taught her how to sew, and with these new talents, she began designing and producing bags.

Her mother died of breast cancer while Garmon was in high school. She finds it hard at times to not be able to call her mother and share what she is doing in school, she said.

“Her talents really impacted me,” she said.

Garmon likes to design garments that are easy to wear and fashionable yet simple.

“I never like to show up to the party as the one who looks like they tried the hardest,” Garmon said.

She said her creativity starts when she looks through fabric.

The inspiration for her collection was sparked when she visited a fabric store in New York during Fashion Week in February. Garmon brought back a unique sheer fabric with an exposed overlay of yarn to produce her collection.

As president of University Fashion Group, Garmon also ensures that everyone is on task with the production of the senior runway show. In addition, Garmon works in one of the University libraries and has an internship with an online store. When she is not working, she spends her weekends and nights in the lab producing her designs.

Garmon’s passion is becoming a reality. After graduation, she will move to New York, which may test her strong relationship with her grandparents, since they do not want her



Juan Elizondo | Daily Texan Staff

Senior Mallory Garmon shows off her stylistically simple designs for the Orange Runway fashion show, an exhibition of fashion talent.

to leave. She plans to chat with them and her father online so they can remain close.

“Whatever I have to do to make it work ... I have to do it, I have to make it,” Garmon said.

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Blue October's music takes a happy detour



Courtesy of Blue October

The members of Blue October, having recently released their fifth studio album, have stayed humble throughout their successes.

By Robert Rich
Daily Texan Staff

Justin Furstenfeld seems happier. Maybe it's because he recently became a father. Maybe it's because his band, the San Marcos-based alt-rock outfit Blue October, is riding a wave of success following 2006's platinum-selling *Foiled*, an album anchored by hits like "Into the Ocean" and "Hate Me."

Whatever the reason, the change in demeanor is readily apparent. When he talks about the group's newest album, the recently released *Approaching Normal*, there are more laughs surrounding song meanings and more lighthearted banter about some of the more intense, heartbreaking songs that he wrote when he was younger.

There's no way around it: He's simply doing a hell of a lot better.

"When I was writing the new album, I fell in love with all of the songs because they all have a different meaning than usual," Furstenfeld said. "It's a lot less of this 'poor me' mentality and focuses instead on what I can do to make my life better."

That doesn't mean the album is a pleasant stroll through good memories and perfect situations, but as the album title suggests, Furstenfeld is trying.

The singer, no stranger to heartache, has written in the past about his struggles with mental illness and depression, but the most endearing — and frightening — part about it is his ability to connect

with the listener. He writes about things that are real. He takes you to the brink of disaster, to that teetering precipice of hopelessness. At that moment, when everything seems doomed to crash, he offers a glimpse of hope, a fragile faith that makes it possible to weather the storm. But this time around, that faith is a little bit stronger.

Whether it's the album's lead single, "Dirt Room," a high-powered anthem of solidarity and belief in oneself, or "Blue Skies," a palm-muted jaunt that will no doubt be beastly when performed live, *Approaching Normal* is the group's best album to date. Furstenfeld speaks of the changes he went through in writing the album but is also quick to give cred-

it to his bandmates, a talented group led by multi-instrumentalist Ryan Delahoussaye.

"After we sat down and listened to the songs, we all got together in a big warehouse and played through so people could add their own parts," Furstenfeld said. "It was great, and Ryan just shines through like crazy on this album. Everybody does. It was amazing to just see everybody break out and do their thing."

This process has found the band taking risks and doing things it hadn't been able to previously, including releasing the album on vinyl as well as CD and mp3.

Furstenfeld was also bound in

BAND continues on page 5B

'Observe and Report' star, writer shed light on filmmaking process

Rogen scoffs at acting methods; writer fears for first major movie

By Michael Thompson
Daily Texan Staff

The Daily Texan talked to actor Seth Rogen and director Jody Hill via conference call about their new movie "Observe and Report," which opens today.

While Rogen seemed very relaxed, Hill felt nervous and understandably so: This is his first major movie release, and he is not a household name like Rogen. The conference-call coordinator even told me that "Miss Hill" would be on the line shortly (despite the fact Hill is most certainly a man). A relaxed Rogen, on the other hand, rattled off answers that would make method actors shudder, revealing the details of his improvisational style.

Rogen scoffed at he idea that he traditionally prepared for his part, avoiding methods like shadowing a mall security guard, whom he plays in the movie.

"I did absolutely nothing like that," Rogen said. "I didn't actually talk to any security guards before shooting. Maybe a few for like five minutes a few days before filming."

The hardest scene to shoot for Rogen didn't involve emo-

tional digging but rather challenged his physical ability: He fought 14 police officers in one scene.

"I was extremely out of shape, and the air in Albuquerque is very thin," Rogen said as he laughed at himself.

His improvisational style matches his career as the actor takes his projects on a movie-by-movie basis. There is no "grand scheme."

Luckily for Hill, "Observe and Report" just fell into Rogen's hands. With the actor's help, the movie was pitched to Warner Bros., and the studio stepped back for the most part, allowing Hill to make his "weird little movie."

The movie includes some strange moments, like a climatic nude chase scene. Hill laughed uncontrollably when he was asked if it was difficult to stay professional while filming the scene.

"We shot it over a couple of days," he said. "We had fun. The actors had fun with it. I mean, it's a naked guy running through the mall. It's hard not to laugh."

Hill and Rogen wait with bated breath to see if audiences around the nation watch the movie today. But this time Hill didn't have to invest his personal finances into the project.

"I used my own credit cards on my first movie," he said. "Here, we actually had a budget."



Courtesy of De Vine Pictures

Seth Rogen stars in "Observe and Report." He fought 14 police officers in what he called his most difficult scene to film.

Keyboard produces fresh beats



Karina Jacques | Daily Texan Staff

UT recording technology junior Michael Loredo listens to music producer Happy Perez's seminar at the music school on Wednesday. The producer came to UT to discuss his work with the company's new software, which will soon be available to UT music students.

Makers of MiKo instrument donate products to UT School of Music

By JJ Velasquez
Daily Texan Staff

Happy Perez has been making beats since his high school days.

Perez, now 31, is an established hip-hop producer based in Houston. He knows the world of music production is prone to its little trends. So when he caught wind of the MIDI workstation known as the MiKo, manufactured by Austin-headquartered company Open Labs Inc., he was skeptical.

MiKo is essentially a beat box. The \$2,799 machine includes 7,500 high-quality preset sounds that contribute to a wide variety of music genres, most notably hip-hop and rap.

Perez, who has produced

"The more music you can make, the more money you can make, the more opportunities you can create."

— Happy Perez, hip-hop producer

artists such as Chamillionaire and Ludacris, collaborated on a project with a producer in Los Angeles who was working off the MiKo. He said he noticed the quality of the sound and the level of productivity his fellow producer was able to achieve with the workstation.

"I would go back to my room and say, 'Man, I'm stuck with this same old stuff,'" he said.

The experience piqued his interest, so when he asked an employee at a Texas Guitar Center about the product, the employee told him the company was based in Austin and took him to see Victor Wong, president and chairman of Open Labs.

The convenience of the portable all-in-one workstation was the selling point, Perez said.

"The more music you can

make, the more money you can make, the more opportunities you can create," he said.

The producer taught a handful of attendees — including students from UT, Mediatech and ACC — the ins and outs of the workstation in an Open Labs-affiliated masterclass held at UT's Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music on Wednesday.

The classes, given sometimes by guest artists like Perez or Open Labs employees, are part of the company's initiative to get feedback from sound-recording students on how it can create a product that would suit their needs.

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THE BROWN NOTE

Before you follow, avoid the five worst musicians' Twitters

By Robert Rich
Daily Texan Staff

A couple of years ago, I heard about a social networking Web site called Twitter via some tiny blurb I read in Wired magazine.

I created an account, and it quickly went dormant, maybe because it was still a young venture, and its true capacities had not been determined. Or perhaps it was just because I was in high school and had a total of about 10 friends, none of whom understood anything about social media or the Internet.

This semester, I was required to revisit my Twitter account in one of my classes, and now I'm an addict.

Every chance I get, I'm checking the site from my BlackBerry or up-

dating my status online. I have 83 followers — many of them spam-whore sites, but I'm working on more. One thing that happened in the time my account was inactive was the site's explosion into the mainstream. It gained tons more users, including celebrities such as Ashton Kutcher and Diddy.

Luckily for us, many of those accounts are ridiculous. So, with that in mind, I present to you the Brown Note's picks for the five worst musicians who tweet.

5 Universal Music Group (@universal_music)

Major labels have proved they don't understand how to utilize the Internet to sell records, and

Universal's Twitter account is just another example. Understandably, the account features tweets about upcoming releases on the label, but the lack of originality is painful. "What's your favorite track on the new Jadakiss album?" a recent tweet asked, but it probably should've been "Why do you think we're moronic enough to believe in Jadakiss as an artist?"

4 Colin Meloy (@colinmeloy)

I'm reluctant to include this on the list, because I really do like Colin Meloy. The vocalist and songwriter of The Decemberists is pretty much an everyman for the indie crowd, and the solo show

I saw him play at La Zona Rosa last year was astounding. But as a Twitter user, the man comes off a bit pretentious, almost like a holier-than-thou purveyor of art and culture. Sure, the links he posts are interesting, but don't insult my intelligence when you do it. "Wow, broke 100k followers! Regardless of my massive sway, I still can't seem to get my hands on a f**king harmonica holder." I know that's a joke, but come on, don't be a d-bag.

3 Trent Reznor (@trent_reznor)

The mastermind behind Nine Inch Nails has a love-hate relationship with the service, as ev-

idenced by the massive number of tweets of Reznor talking about how he needs to step away from Tweetdeck or pleading "OK, just one more. FYI I can stop doing this any time I want to." Of course, his biggest accomplishment has been insulting the new Chris Cornell record via Twitter. Good job, Trent.

2 Scott Stapp (@scottstapp)

Unfortunately, everybody's favorite Creed only has one tweet, saying "im in the studio tracking new music!!!" but let's hope it's only a matter of time before ol' Scott gets wasted and goes on a tweeting spree.

1 Chris Cornell (@chriscornell)

Congratulations, Chris Cornell, you've gone from a classic vocalist of the grunge era to a lowly Twitter annoyance. Cornell tries hard to portray himself as a regular dude who plays music for people around the world, but it's more irritating than interesting to see "Dallas show was great, but I forgot my camera! Dammit!" My personal favorite: "Can't fucking sleep again. Shit. Fuck." Well, Chris, you forced us to listen to the awful new album you created with Timbaland, so perhaps you should spend some of that sleepless time thinking about why you felt the need to assault our ears.